

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02148 051138Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 /095 W
-----113829 051145Z /44

P R 051030Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1481

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USMISSION GENEVA
USICA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 2148

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM
SUBJECT: BENIN SITUATION

REF: LIBREVILLE 2137, COTONOU 1099

1. RE BENINESE CHARGES OF LOOTING, PILLAGE AND RAPE BY GABONESE
POLICE
(COTONOU REFTEL) THERE NO DOUBT THAT DURING INITIAL OUTBURST,
THERE WERE MANY CASES OF LOOTING AND PILLAGE AND INDEED, PEOPLE
WERE HURT. SOME POLICE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE HAVE HEARD NO
RAPE STORIES, BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SUCH CASES. WE HAVE NO
EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT LYCEE
DESTUAIRE WHERE BENINESE HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED, NOT EVEN FROM
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RUMOR MILL. HOWEVER, WHILE THERE MAY BE ISOLATED CASES, NATURE
OF CAMP, WHICH WIDE OPEN, IN FULL VIEW OF PUBLIC AND CROWDED,
MILITATES AGAINST POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH CHARGES MAY BE TRUE. ARMY
IN ANY CASE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH GUARDING CAMP. WE THEREFORE
SUGGEST THAT TERM "CONFIRMED" IN COTONOU REFTEL BE
TREATED WITH CONSIDERABLE RESERVE AT LEAST AS IT APPLIES TO LYCEE.

2. LIBREVILLE DAILY, L'UNION, AUG 5, FINALLY CARRIED FULL TEXT OF FONMIN'S BONGO'S MEETING WITH COMS, LESS A FEW REMARKS WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN HIS SCRIPT. APPEAL AT CLOSE FOR HELP WAS INCLUDED: "WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR FRIENDS AND PARTICULARLY THE GREAT POWERS, IS IN NO WAY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS AFFAIR WHICH IS MATTER OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY, BUT RATHER HELP IN REPATRIATING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THESE BENINESE FAMILIES..."

3. FINALLY, L'UNION PRINTED CORRECTION TO AUG 4 STATEMENT THAT CENSUS OF BENINESE IN LIBREVILLE AS OF JULY 28 WAS 10,232.(LIBREVILLE 2137) L'UNION STATED FIGURE GIVEN WAS ACTUALLY FOR ALL OF GABON. CORRECT FIGURE FOR LIBREVILLE IS APPROX 7500. TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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